

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /123 W

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R 121700Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4562

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCLANT

USMISSION NATO

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0800

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT MARR NATO IC

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: COALITION PARTIES EXCHANGE

SALVOS ON DEFENSE

REF: (A) REYKJAVIK 0791 (B) REYKJAVIK 0792

1. IN FOLLOW-UP TO PREVIOUS ATTACKS ON FONMIN AGUSTSSON, PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE NEWSPAPER THJODVILJINN ISSUED BLAST AT HIM FOR HIS STATEMENT ON DEFENSE AFFAIRS (REF A). JUNE 11 EDITORIAL SAID HIS STATEMENT QUOTE EXPOSES THE INSINCERITY AND POWERLESSNESS OF THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY. IT IS EDUCATIONAL BECAUSE IT FORCES LEFTISTS, ALL THOSE WHO WANT FIRMNESS AND SINCERITY TO BE DECISIVE IN THIS ISSUE, TO REALIZE THAT THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADERSHIP CANNOT BE TRUSTED. THE CABINET PARTIES REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON MARCH 21, 1974 IN WHICH THERE WERE CLEAR PROVISIONS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE ARMED FORCE AND THAT THERE NOT BE OPERATED ANY FORM OF MILITARY

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STATION AT KEFLAVIK AIRPORT. THIS WAS THE CORE OF THE AGREEMENT AND

WAS, NATURALLY, THE PREMISE UPON WHICH THE PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE SIGNED IT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT THERE IS TO BE A MILITARY POSITION MAINTAINED HERE IN THE FUTURE DESPITE THE AGREEMENT. THIS IS SUCH AN OUTRAGEOUS MISINTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT THAT MATTERS CANNOT GO FURTHER AND A STRENUOUS PROTEST MUST BE MADE. UNQUOTE

2. THJODVILJINN CHARGES AGUSTSSON WITH "WRETCHED SERVILITY TOWARDS THE AMERICANS...HE THROWS DOWN THE GAUNTLET AT HIS COALITION PARTY IN THE CABINET, THE PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE... THIS SITUATION IS BOUND TO RAISE THE SUSPICION THAT THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADERSHIP PLANS TO TURN TO THE RIGHT AFTER THE ELCTIONS AND INTO COALITION WITH THE INDEPENDENCE PARTY...HE EXPOSES THE PERFDY OF THE PROGRESSIVES, A POLITICAL PARTY WHICH IS TREACHEROUS IN THIS AND ALL OTHER ISSUES. HE CONFIRMS THAT THE PARTY IS VACILLATING, POWERLESS AND WEAK WHEN IT FACES IMPORTANT DECISIONS. HE PROVES IT IS A COWARDLY CENTER PARTY WHEN FACING UP THE FACTS."

3. PROGRESSIVE PARTY RETALIATED JUNE 12 WITH EDITORIAL IN PARTY NEWSPAPER TIMINN SIGNED BY EDITOR, THORARINN THORARINSSON. EDITORIAL SAID, "THE REASON FOR THJODVILJINN'S ANGER AT EINAR AGUSTSSON IS OBVIOUS. IT IS BECAUSE HE EMPHASIZED THE POLICY OF MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS AND COOPERATION WITH WESTERN NATIONS AND THAT ICELAND SHOULD BE FREE OF TROOPS IN TIMES OF PEACE. THE COMMUNISTS, WHO ARE STILL A STRONG FORCE WITH THE PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE, HAVE IN THE PAST WANTED TO AND STILL WANT TO USE THE DEFENSE ISSUE TO INSTIGATE DISPUTES WITH THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. IT IS JUST AS EVIDENT HERE AS IT WAS WHEN THIS SAME CLIQUE TRIED TO HINDER AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER JOHANNESSEN AND PRIME MINISTER HEATH TO END THE COD WAR. THEY WISHED TO PROLONG THE COD WAR AND TO CREATE A SCHISM BETWEEN ICELAND AND ITS ALLIES IN NATO. THE ATTACK BY THJODVILJINN ON EINAR AGUSTSSON IS A NEW PROOF THAT THE PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE CANNOT BE TRUSTED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS BECAUSE OF THE INFLUENCE OF COMMUNISTS IN THAT PARTY."

4. COMMENT: LOCAL ICELANDIC OBSERVER COMMENTED THAT ONE CAN ALWAYS TELL THAT ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN IN EARNEST WHEN COALITION PARTIES START ATTACKING EACH OTHER.

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MARR, IC, NATO
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